

## Work sample: Letter to the editor – Contact history

### Relevant part of the achievement standard

By the end of Year 4 students place some of the key events and people they have studied in chronological sequence and they create simple timelines.

Students pose questions about the past and locate relevant information from a range of historical sources.

Students use a range of historical sources to examine the reasons for and impact of historical events. They use sources to identify different points of view in the past and the motivations of individuals and groups.

Students explain the significance of events in bringing about change.

Students compose historical texts, including narratives, using appropriate historical terms. They present their information using a range of communication forms (written, spoken, visual).

### Summary of task

Students were asked to write a letter to the editor about contacts between Aboriginal peoples and Europeans following the arrival of the First Fleet.

They were required to:

- take a particular point of view
- provide reasons for that point of view.

**Student attainment of the achievement standard is determined at the end of a reporting period after reviewing relevant assessment evidence.**

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Australian's treated unfairly!

Dear Reader, Do you know the actual story of the First Fleet because it saddens me to even think about it. It is so very unfair.

I believe that in the year 1788 it was very unfair because the poor Aborigines were misunderstood and because they were so misunderstood they had to learn the English language. So think if you had to learn a different language would you be happy?

secondly, I also think it is unfair because the English had better weapons than the Indigenous people

### Annotations

Identifies a point of view that Aboriginal peoples were treated unfairly.

Provides reasons for the point of view taken, for example the appropriation of resources.

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because the English had  
weapons such as Muskets  
and knives but the  
Aborigines only had rocks,  
spears and sticks. Do you  
think if I throw a rock or  
a stick at you it would kill  
you? No probably not.  
So really they only had  
one weapon the spear.

Thirdly, I think the  
English stole everything  
even fish, food, land and people.  
This was so unfair! At first  
it was the Aborigines  
land, also they grew the  
fish, food and community.  
they could have brought  
more food or gone  
back to England to get  
more food.

### Annotations

Provides reasons for point of view taken.

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A photograph of a student's handwritten letter on lined paper. The text is written in cursive and reads: "So that is the real story of the First Fleet (in my words So now do you think it is unfair? I hope you do." The handwriting is somewhat informal and shows signs of being a child's work.

### Annotation summary

This work sample demonstrates the explanation of a particular perspective (that is of Aboriginal peoples) in the form of a written text (a letter to the editor) using historical terms.

#### Acknowledgement:

ACARA acknowledges the contribution of trial school teachers and students in providing the tasks and work samples. The annotations written by ACARA are referenced to the Australian curriculum achievement standards.